Case 1:21-cr-00265-PKC Document 250-1 Filed 06/14/23 Page 1 of 32 PageID #:

Exhibit A

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1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
8
9
10
               Remote Videotaped Deposition of XINZI XU,
11
    taken on behalf of PLAINTIFF, via Webex videoconference,
    at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 2nd Floor, Arizona Conference
12
13
    Room, San Francisco, California, commencing at 9:12 A.M.,
14
    WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023, before Suzanne I. Andrade,
15
    Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 10682, pursuant to
16
    Notice of Videotaped Deposition.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

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|----|---|
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| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |
| | |

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| 19 | ALSO PRESENT (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): |
| 20 | MICHAEL McMAHON |
| 21 | YONG ZHU |
| 22 | CHRISTOPHER BRUNO, FBI SPECIAL AGENT |
| 23 | NANCY WU, INTERPRETER |
| 24 | JOSHUA HEADRICK, VIDEOGRAPHER |
| 25 | HONORABLE RAMON REYES, JUDGE |
| | |

```
1
 2
 3
         THE VIDEO OPERATOR: The court reporter today is
    Suzanne Andrade, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
 4
 5
    contracted by Behmke Reporting and Video Services, Inc.
 6
              Would the reporter please swear in the witness.
 7
              (The witness was duly sworn.)
 8
        THE WITNESS: Yes.
9
                             XINZI XU,
10
    after having been duly administered the oath to tell the
    truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
11
    testified as follows:
12
13
                            EXAMINATION
    BY MS. CHEN:
14
15
              Please state and spell your name.
        0.
              Xinzi Xu, X-i-n-z-i, X-u.
16
        Α.
17
        Q.
              Do you go by any other names?
              Sabrina.
18
        Α.
19
             How old are you?
        0.
20
        Α.
              30.
21
        Q.
              Where were you born?
22
        Α.
             China.
23
              At some point did you come to live in the
        Q.
24
    United States?
25
        Α.
              Yes.
```

```
1
              About how old were you when you came to the
        0.
 2
    United States?
 3
        Α.
              13.
              And how far did you go in school?
 4
        Q.
 5
        Α.
              Master's.
 6
              What is your master's degree in?
        0.
 7
        Α.
              Statistics.
 8
              And when did you get your master's degree?
        0.
 9
        Α.
              In 2016.
10
        Q.
              Did you obtain your master's degree in the
11
    United States?
12
        Α.
              Yes.
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
    BY MS. CHEN:
21
22
              Did you obtain your master's degree from a
23
    university in California?
24
        Α.
              Yes.
25
              Did you earn a college degree as well?
         Q.
```

1 Α. Yes. 2 0. What is your college degree in? 3 Α. Economics. And when did you obtain your college degree? 4 Q. 5 2014. Α. 6 Was your college degree obtained from a Q. 7 university in the United States? 8 Α. Yes. 9 Was your college degree obtained from a Q. university in California? 10 11 Α. Yes. 12 Q. After you obtained your master's degree, what 13 did you do? 14 Α. I worked as a computer engineer focused on 15 analytics. 16 Q. And what type of company did you work for? 17 Α. Technology. 18 Q. About how long were you at that job? 19 Α. About a year and a half. 20 Q. After that first job, did you work somewhere 21 else? 22 Α. Yes. 23 What was that job? Q. 24 The same job title, computer engineer, focused Α. 25 on analytics, at a different company.

- And what type of company was that? 1 Q. 2 Α. Biotech. Technology. 3 Do you live in the United States now? Q. 4 Α. Yes. 5 And what state do you live in? 0. California. 6 Α. 7 0. Do you have any family in the United States? 8 Α. Yes. 9 What family is that? Q. 10 Α. My parents, my aunt, and my uncle. 11 What are your parents' names? 0. 12 Α. My mom's name is Fang Liu, F-a-n-g, L-i-u. 13 dad's name is Jin Xu, J-i-n, X-u. Do you have any siblings? 14 Q. 15 Α. No. Do you have any family in China? 16 Q. 17 Α. Yes. What family do you have in China? 18 Q. 19 My grandparents on my dad's side and my dad's Α. 20 sister. 21 Do you have any kids? Q. 22 Α. In about a month.
- 25 A. Yes.

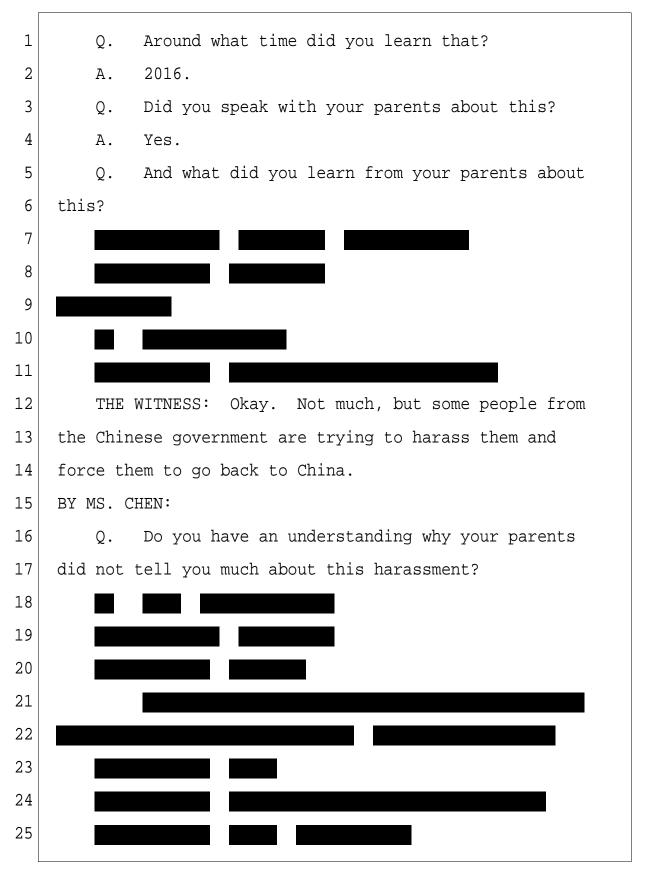
Q.

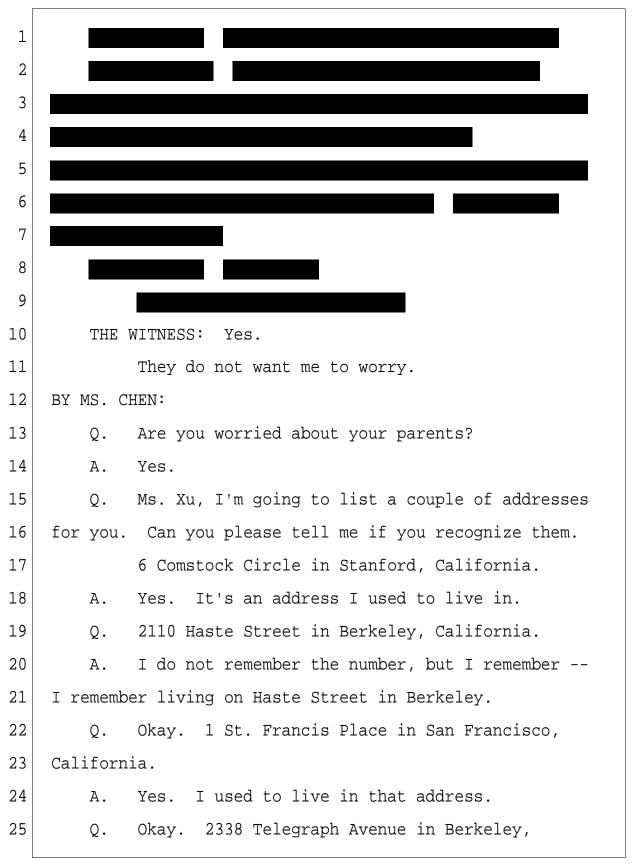
were being harassed?

23

24

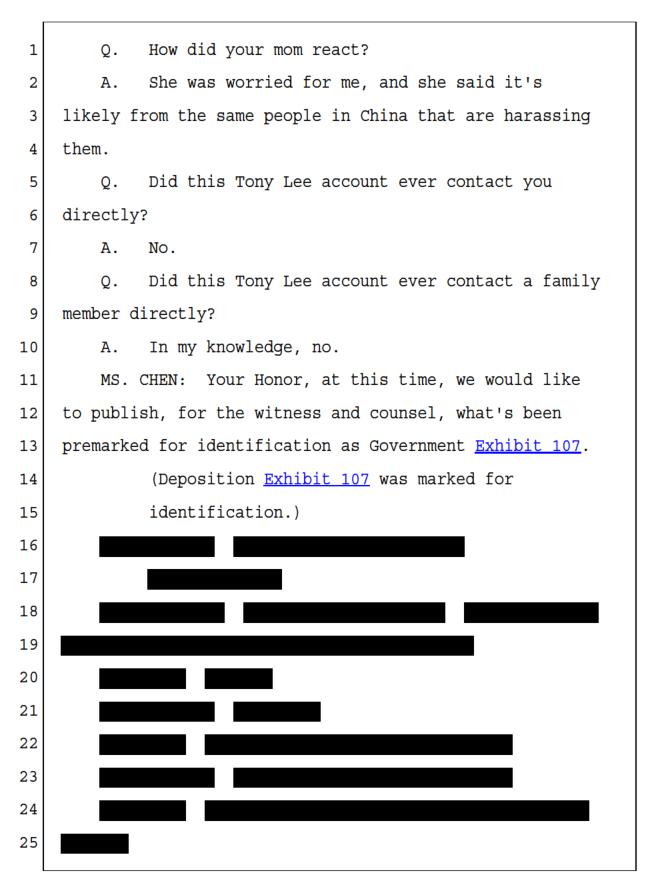
At some point, did you learn that your parents

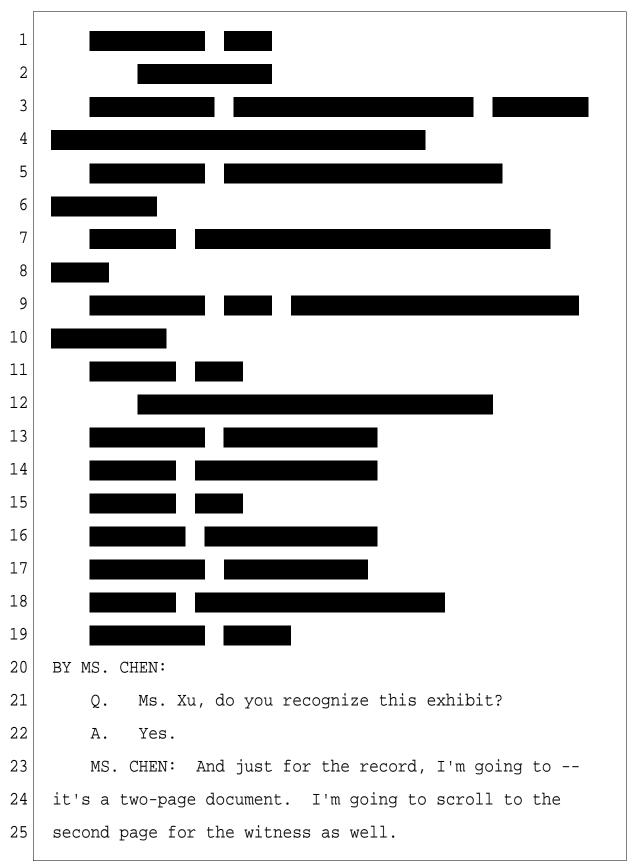




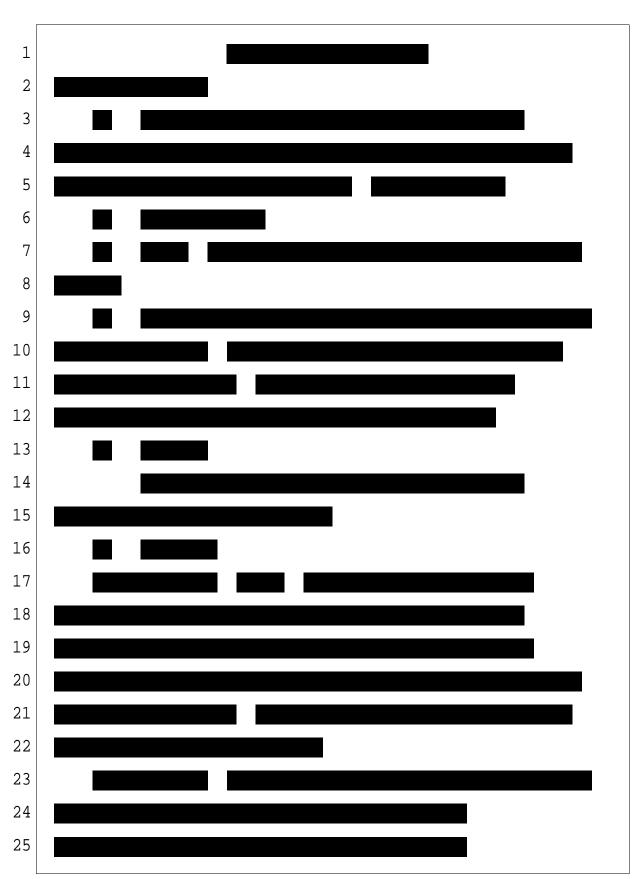
```
1
    California.
                    I used to live in that address.
 2
        Α.
              Yes.
              2222 Durant Avenue in Berkeley, California.
 3
        0.
                    I used to live in that address.
 4
        Α.
 5
        Q.
              Ms. Xu, do you currently have a Facebook
 6
    account?
 7
        Α.
              Yes.
              In 2017 and 2018, did you have a Facebook
 8
        Q.
9
    account?
10
        Α.
              Yes.
              I want to direct you to May of 2018.
11
        0.
12
              Did anything having to do with you or your
13
    loved ones' Facebook accounts stand out to you?
14
                    My friends received Facebook messages
    from an account named Tony Lee that contained deroga- --
15
16
    derogatory information about me and my parents.
17
        Q.
              Do you know someone named by the name of Tony
18
    Lee?
19
        Α.
             No.
20
        Q.
              Are you friends with someone by the name of
21
    Tony Lee?
22
        Α.
              No.
23
              Can you explain more specifically what the
        Q.
24
    messages said.
25
              To my best memory, the message said my parents
        Α.
```

- 1 are criminals, and I am aware of the fact that they're
 2 criminals.
 3 Q. Do you recall whether the messages were written
- 4 in English or Chinese?
- 5 A. Both.
- 6 Q. Do you speak Chinese?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. How many friends of yours informed you that they had received this type of message?
- 10 A. To my best memory, about ten.
- Q. Did those friends who informed you they had received the messages have any relationship with your parents?
- 14 A. No.
- Q. Are you aware of any legitimate reason why this person would have sent these messages to your friends?
- 17 A. No.
- Q. Did you tell anyone about the messages that your friends received?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you tell any family members about these messages?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Who did you tell?
- A. My mother.





THE WITNESS: Mm-hmm. BY MS. CHEN: Ms. Xu, what is this exhibit? 0. This is the Facebook message that my friends received in 2018. Does this exhibit consist of true and accurate 0. copies of the screenshots of the Facebook messages sent from a Tony Lee account to your friends in 2018? To my best memory, yes. MS. CHEN: Your Honor, at this point, the government moves into evidence Government Exhibit 107.

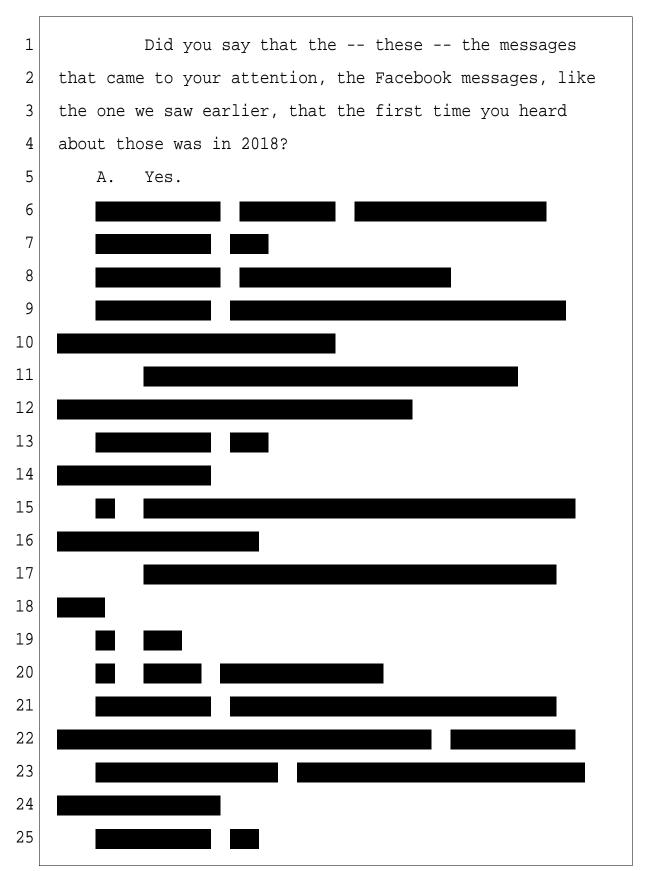


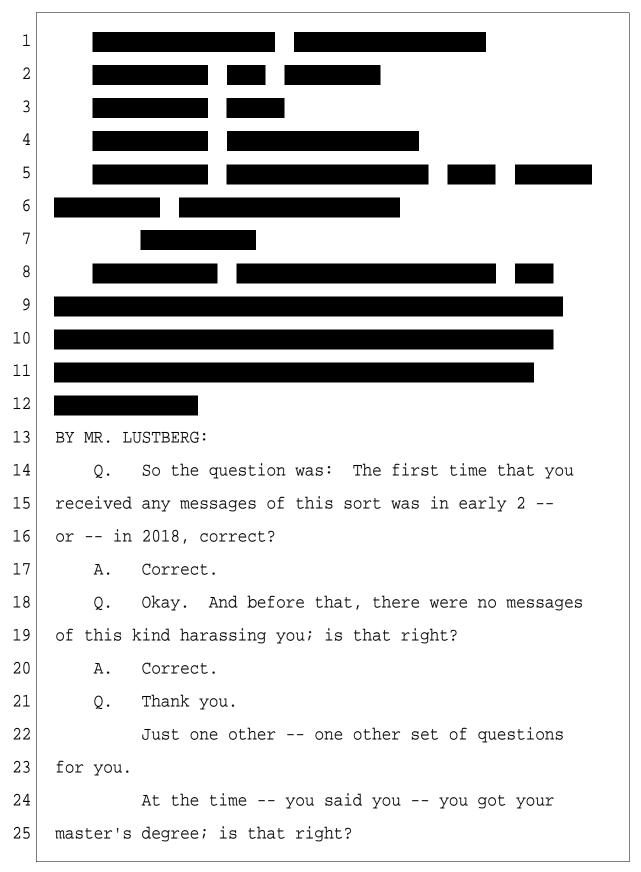
1 2 Thank you, Your Honor. 3 MS. CHEN: I'm iust scrolling back up to the first page of the exhibit. 4 5 6 BY MS. CHEN: 7 0. Ms. Xu, can you ex- -- please explain what this exhibit is. 8 9 Α. This is the text -- Facebook message that my friends received in 2018. 10 11 And what does the message actually say? 0. 12 Α. It says: "Sabrina Xu who graduated from 13 UC Berkeley" -- sorry. Slow. 14 "Sabrina Xu who graduated from UC Berkeley, her 15 parents, Xu Jin and Liu Fang are wanted by International Criminal Police Organization as they were involved in 16 17 massive corruption within public office in China and transferred a large sum of monies to the U.S. for 18 19 squandering. They applied for EB-5 immigration with fake identity. Sabrina Xu knows all about her parents' 20 21 corruption, and the expense of her extravagant life in 22 U.S. is from her parents' corruption and crime. 23 defiance and evasion of laws should be condemned by the 24 public." 25 Ms. Xu, is anything in this message true? Q.

- 1 A. My name. I do go by Sabrina. And my parents'
- 2 names, even though the first name and last names are
- 3 flipped. I did graduate from UC Berkeley.
- 4 Q. Have you or your friends ever received any
- 5 Facebook messages like this before 2018?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Have you or your friends ever received any
- 8 Facebook messages like this after 2018?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. How did learning about these Facebook messages
- 11 make you feel?
- 12 A. I felt stressed, unsafe. Yeah.
- Q. Ms. Xu, are you worried about your family?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What, if anything, do you do to check in with
- 16 your family?
- 17 A. I send my mom an emoji every day to let her
- 18 know that I'm safe.
- 19 Q. And what, if anything, do your parents do or
- 20 your family do to check in with you?
- 21 A. My mom sends me an emoji back, or a hi, every
- 22 day.
- 23 Q. And when did you start sending these emojis
- 24 back and forth?
- 25 A. To my best memory, 2017.

```
1
        MS. CHEN:
                   Your Honor, may I just have one moment?
 2
        JUDGE REYES:
                      Mm-hmm.
              (Government counsel confer.)
 3
    BY MS. CHEN:
 4
 5
             Ms. Xu, just to clarify again, can you say how
        Q.
6
    learning about these Facebook messages we were just
 7
    talking about, how that made you feel?
 8
             I felt unsafe, because they -- I -- I do not
9
    post public stuff on my social media, but somehow the
    people harassing me knew who my friends were. And they
10
11
    sent this message with very serious allegations to my
12
    friends. So I felt unsafe and I felt very stressed.
    And also worried. Yeah.
13
14
        MS. CHEN:
                   Your Honor, we have no further questions.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
                            EXAMINATION
24
    BY MR. LUSTBERG:
25
        Q.
             Just a few questions for you, Ms. Xu.
                                                     My name
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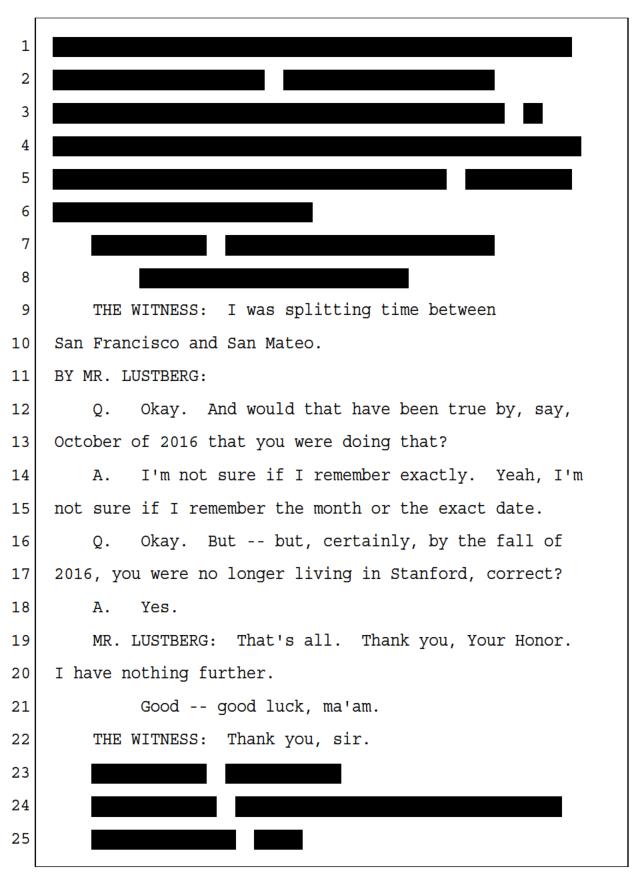
```
1
    is Larry Lustberg. I represent Michael McMahon.
 2
             Can you see Mr. McMahon on the screen?
 3
        Α.
             No.
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
9
10
11
12
        Q.
             Okay. I see Mr. McMahon on my screen.
13
        MR. LUSTBERG: Maybe just to make it clear,
14
    Mr. McMahon, can you put up your hand.
15
        DEFENDANT McMAHON: (Complies.)
16
    BY MR. LUSTBERG:
17
        Q.
             Do you see the person who just put up his hand?
18
        Α.
             Yes. Now I see him, yes.
19
             Thank you very much.
        0.
20
             Have you ever seen him before today?
21
        Α.
             No.
22
        Q.
             Thank you.
23
             And just so I'm clear, just two more sets of
24
    questions. I think -- I just want to make sure I
25
    understood your testimony.
```





1 Α. Yes. 2 And is -- am I right that you got your master's 3 degree in May of 2016? Α. 4 Yes. Okay. And at the time that you got your 5 Q. master's degree, were you living on campus there in 6 7 Stan- -- at Stanford? 8 Α. Yes. 9 And then after you graduated -- I'm not going Q. 10 to ask you where you went, although you've given your addresses. 11 12 But after you graduated, you went and moved 13 someplace else? 14 Α. Yes. 15 What -- did you -- did you -- did you leave Q. right after your graduation? 16 17 Α. To my best memory, yes. 18 Q. And, just generally -- you don't have to give a 19 street address, but, generally, where did you move to at that time? 20 21 Α. I moved to Nor- -- Northern Bay area. 22 0. Okay. Do you remember the -- could you just 23 tell me the name of the town? 24 25

28



1 This is Paul Goldberger and Renee Wong. 2 don't have any questions, Your Honor. 3 4 5 6 EXAMINATION 7 BY MR. TUNG: Back in 2018, you already left New Jersey, 8 Q. 9 right? 10 That's where your home -- I mean, your -- your parents' home is, correct? 11 12 Α. I'm sorry. I couldn't hear very clearly. 13 Okay. I'll -- I'll do this again. I'm sorry. 0. 14 Maybe -- okay. 15 You and your parents lived in state of New Jersey at one point in time; is that correct? 16 17 Α. Not exactly. 18 0. Okay. Now, why do you say "not exactly"? 19 So -- let me -- let me ask another question. 20 Α. Yeah. 21 0. Did your parents live in New Jersey, in state 22 of New Jersey? 23 Yes. Α. 24 Q. And they have a house, right? 25 That's their -- their own house in the state of

New Jersey, right? I'm not sure of the ownership of the house. They did live in a house. And is that the alleged -- I mean, in that --Q. and the alleged harassment occurred in this case, that is around the time they lived in the state of New Jersey; is that correct? Could you clarify the harassment in this case, what that means? In -- in my case?

```
1
    BY MR. TUNG:
 2
             So, Ms. Xu, did you ever stated that you were
 3
    harassed by unidentified people from China?
 4
        Α.
             Um...
             I'm sorry. Could you repeat your question?
 5
             Okay. Now, earlier, did you tell everyone that
 6
        Q.
 7
    you were harassed?
        Α.
 8
             Yes.
9
        Q.
             Yes.
10
             So tell me again --
11
        JUDGE REYES: And, Ms. Xu, when was -- when did you
12
    feel harassed? In 2018?
13
        THE WITNESS: Correct.
        JUDGE REYES: At the time, did you believe -- were
14
    your parents -- at the time you felt harassed, were your
15
16
    parents living in New Jersey?
17
        THE WITNESS: Yes.
18
        MR. TUNG: Thank you, Your Honor.
19
    BY MR. TUNG:
20
        Q.
             And so in 2018, you were not living with your
21
    parents in New Jersey; is that correct?
22
        Α.
             Correct.
23
             So you told us you were -- you felt harassed
        Ο.
24
    because some of your friends received messages from --
25
    in their Facebook regarding messages from a person
```

```
1
    identified as Tony Lee; is that correct?
 2
              That -- that's the harassment you're talking
 3
    about?
        Α.
 4
              Yes.
 5
              And at that time, you were in California,
        Q.
6
    correct?
 7
        Α.
              Correct.
8
              All right. I would like to show you my client.
        0.
9
        Α.
              Mm-hmm.
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
    BY MR. TUNG:
21
22
        Q.
              The person that I just show you -- I'm going to
23
    do this again, and I'll switch around to mi- -- to
24
    microphone.
25
              Can you look at the person in front of you?
```

```
1
        Α.
              (Nods head.)
 2
        Q.
              Have you seen this person before?
 3
        Α.
              No.
 4
        Q.
             Do you know his name?
 5
        Α.
             No.
 6
             Have you heard anyone discuss, you know,
        Q.
 7
    something related to this person, if you know?
 8
        Α.
              No.
9
10
11
12
        JUDGE REYES:
13
              Ms. Xu, have you ever had any dealings, to your
14
    knowledge, with the person who was just shown to you on
15
    the video?
16
        THE WITNESS: To my knowledge, no.
17
        MR. TUNG: I'm about to finish. Just -- just one
18
    question, clarify.
19
    BY MR. TUNG:
20
              So your harassment that you felt and being
21
    harassed, that all occurred in the state of California,
22
    correct?
23
             Yes.
        Α.
24
        JUDGE REYES: Anything else, Mr. Tung?
25
    BY MR. TUNG:
```

1 Q. And you do not know if the person that you saw 2 was Tony Lee, correct? 3 4 5 THE WITNESS: Correct. BY MR. TUNG: 6 7 Q. "Correct," meaning you do not know? 8 I do not know if the person that you just 9 showed me is Tony Lee or not. 10 MR. TUNG: Thank you very much. I do not have any 11 more questions. 12 JUDGE REYES: Redirect, Ms. Chen? 13 MS. CHEN: No, Your Honor. 14 JUDGE REYES: Okay. Anything else, anyone? 15 MR. GOLDBERGER: No, Your Honor. Thank you very 16 much. 17 MR. LUSTBERG: No, Your Honor. Thank you. 18 JUDGE REYES: Thank you. The deposition is 19 adjourned. 20 21 22 23 24 25